



Pathways

TTUHSC Department of Public Health Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2021

Opening Remarks

The perception of some in society was we may be seeing the potential end of COVID-19 and a return to normalcy. However, we have seen a new concern arise with the emergence of the Delta variant. Even as this new variant raises new concerns, the TTUHSC MPH program continues its diligent efforts to ensure the safety of our campus, our community, our nation and our world. With a return to 100% capacity on August 1st, our tremendous faculty and staff will continue to teach and lead our students to be of the highest quality and integrity so they can be the next generation of public health experts.

Spring classes
start on Monday,
January 10th!

We're Approved to Become a School!

The Texas Tech University System Board of Regents has officially authorized the process to establish the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. This decision has culminated from many years of hard work and dedication by countless faculty and staff. Congratulations on taking the next step in our journey to transform health care in our communities!

We deeply appreciate everyone's efforts that have led to this historic decision. We are so excited and look forward to becoming the 6th school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center!

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Announcements

- Pre-Registration for Spring 2022 will begin on Wednesday, November 3. Current students should contact their academic advisor for guidance on spring classes.
- 2021 IPE Fall Symposium will be on Friday, November 5th.
- Spring 2021 orientation for new students will be announced at a later date. Please be monitoring emails for more information.

Faculty Honors, Grant Awards and Professional Activities

- Dr. Julie St. John—*Piloting a Composting Latrine Project in Pedregal Grande, Piura, Peru*. TTUHSC Office of Global Health, \$10,000 (January 2021-December 2022).
- Dr. Julie St. John received the Dean's Teaching Award, Public Health, TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences August 20, 2021
- Dr. Julie St. John—*Adult Mental Health First Aid Certification*, May 2021-May 2024. (Authorized Instructor: Sandra Lang, Betty Hardwick Center, National Council for Behavioral Health).

Congratulations to our recent Graduates!

Spring 2021

**Randall Adams
Kortlahn Ballard
Coy Bolton
Taylor Britten
Emily Carlson
Austin Cote
Dana Hardegree
Jared Hoffman
Brianna Hope
Mallory Hyatt
Connor Jacobsen
Sara Johnston
Corry Jones
Bella Kalayilparampil
Kniquezia Jones
Zachary Missimo
Anormeh Noamesi
Chiamaka Okonkwo
Olugbenga Olokede
Grace Powers
Malak Raad
Abirami Rajasegaran
Miranda Rice
Annette Sawadogo
Taylor Splawn
Christelle Yakana-Moyine**

Summer 2021

**Page Barbalena
Joy Ellinger
Lexie Harlan
Jared Jacques
Annette Lerma
Kiela Whitten**

Faculty In The News

- Dr. Hafiz Khan led a group of researchers as they completed a study to better understand the risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD), dementia and Alzheimer's disease in a rural population. The [Journal of Alzheimer's Disease Reports](#) published the study, "Sex Differences in Cardiovascular Disease and Cognitive Decline in Rural West Elderly Texans," in Volume 5, Issue 1. The entire story can be found [here](#).
- Dr. Julie St. John was the lead editor and co-writer of the book *Promoting the Health of the Community: Community Health Workers Describing Their Roles, Competencies, and Practice*. The book is the first of its kind and an exciting new resource for employers interested in the CHW model, as well as those who seek a future as a Community Health Worker. The entire story can be found [here](#).
- Dr. Julie St. John was among several who were interviewed in regards to the ongoing public health issue of human trafficking. The story can be found [here](#).
- Dr. Julie St. John was a guest on the 'Medical Minute' segment on KTXS channel 12 in Abilene. Website unavailable.
- Dr. Julie St. John appeared on KTAB TV channel 32 in Abilene to discuss tips for staying safe during the summer. The segment can be found [here](#).
- Dr. Julie St. John was a guest on TTUHSC's Statline TV to discuss the Human Trafficking Collaborative. The interview can be found [here](#).
- Dr. Duke Appiah's study that women may be experiencing Menopause at a later age was featured on Good Morning America. The story can be found [here](#).
- Dr. Emily Bailey was interviewed about the new laboratory space in the TTUHSC-Abilene Public Health Building. The interview can be found [here](#).

Recent Publications

- **St. John JA**, Reininger, B, Balcazar H, Valerio M, Beaudoin CE (2021). What about promotores Promotores' psychosocial determinants that influenced the delivery of a cervical cancer education intervention to Hispanics. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9: 1255. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.689616>
- Byrd-Williams C, Ewing M, Rosenthal EL, **St John, JA**, Menking P, Redondo F, and Sieswerda S (2021). Training needs of community health workers (CHWs) facing the COVID-19 pandemic in Texas: a cross-sectional study. *Frontiers in Public Health, section Public Health Education and Promotion*. Article DOI: 10.3389/fpubh.2021.689946
- Fastring D, Mayfield-Johnson S, **St. John JA**, Hernández-Gordon W. (2021). Describing Results from the "Promoting the Health of the Community" National Needs Assessment. In **J. A. St. John, S. L. Mayfield-Johnson, W. D. Hernández-Gordon** (eds.), *Promoting the health of the community: Community health workers describing their roles, competencies, and practice* (pp. 43-54). Cham: Springer, 2021. <http://www.springer.com/9783030563745>, <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnetal2021>
- Hernández I, Martínez S, Hernández-Gordon W, **St. John, JA** (2021). Todo Corazón: Abogacía durante la pandemia (All heart: Advocacy during the Pandemic). In J. A. St. John, S. L. Mayfield-Johnson, W. D. Hernández-Gordon (eds.), *Promoting the health of the community: Community health workers describing their roles, competencies, and practice* (pp. 208-220). Cham: Springer, 2021. <http://www.springer.com/9783030563745>, <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnetal2021>
- Mayfield-Johnson S, Hernández-Gordon W., **St. John JA** (2021). Where do we go from here? A closing reflection. In J. A. St. John, S. L. Mayfield-Johnson, W. D. Hernández-Gordon (eds.), *Promoting the health of the community: Community health workers describing their roles, competencies, and practice* (pp. 409-413). Cham: Springer. <http://www.springer.com/9783030563745>, <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnetal2021>
- Rosenthal EL, Fox DJ, **St. John JA**, Allen CG, Menking P, Brownstein JN, Hirsch GR, Redondo F, et al. (2021). The Community Health Worker Core Consensus (C3) Project Story: Confirming the Core Roles and Competencies of Community Health Workers. In **J. A. St. John, S. L. Mayfield-Johnson, W. D. Hernández-Gordon** (eds.), *Promoting the health of the community: Community health workers describing their roles, competencies, and practice* (pp. 11-36). Cham: Springer, 2021. <http://www.springer.com/9783030563745>, <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnetal2021>
- Spock N, **St. John JA**, Kanana L, Acido JT, Agustin J, Canionero K, Talbert M, et al. (2021). CHWs Implementing Individual and Community Assessments: Examples from Hawai'i. In **J. A. St. John, S. L. Mayfield-Johnson, W. D. Hernández-Gordon** (eds.), *Promoting the health of the community: Community health workers describing their roles, competencies, and practice* (pp. 291-310). Cham: Springer, 2021. <http://www.springer.com/9783030563745>, <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnetal2021>

*Public health faculty, alumni & students in **bold**

Recent Publications Continued

- **St. John JA**, Mayfield-Johnson S, Hernandez H (editors). (2021). Promoting the Health of the Community – Community Health Workers Describing their Roles, Competencies, and Practice. Springer. ISBN: 978-3-030-56374-5. <http://www.springer.com/9783030563745>, <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnetal2021>
- **St. John JA**, Mayfield-Johnson S, Hernández-Gordon W. (2021). Introduction: Why Community Health Workers?. In **J. A. St. John**, S. L. Mayfield-Johnson, W. D. Hernández-Gordon (eds.), Promoting the health of the community: Community health workers describing their roles, competencies, and practice (pp. 3-10). Cham: Springer. <http://www.springer.com/9783030563745>, <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnetal2021>
- **St. John, JA.**, Byrd-Williams C., Rosenthal E. L., Menking, P., Redondo, F., Ewing, M., Herrington, E., Sieswerda, S., Kwentua, V., Dixon, M., & Simpson, J. (2021). The Final Report of the Community Health Worker COVID-19 Impact Survey: Texas Results & Methodology. The University of Texas at Houston Health School of Public Health; Texas Tech Health Science Center El Paso Paul L. Foster School of Medicine; & Texas Tech Health Science Center School of Biomedical Sciences. <https://www.c3project.org/resources>, <https://sph.uth.edu/research/centers/dell/resources/the%20final%20report%20of%20the%20community%20health%20worker.pdf>
- **St. John, JA** (January 2021). West Texas Homeless Network Strategic Plan: 2021-2025. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Abilene.
- Dowdle, T., **Dennis, J. A.**, Nugent, K., **Byrd, T. L.** In press. Intention to receive COVID-19 vaccine by U.S. health sciences university employees. Journal of Primary Care and Community Health. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21501327211036611>
- **Dennis, J. A.**, Zhang, Y., Zhang, F., Kopel, J., Abohelwa, M., Nugent, K. (2021). Comparison of 30-Day Mortality and Readmission Frequency in Women versus Men with Acute Myocardial Infarction. Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08998280.2021.1945364>
- Zhang, Y., Lauche, R., Cramer, H., Munk, N., & **Dennis, J. A.** (2021). Increasing trend of yoga practice among US adults: Findings from NHIS 2002 to 2017. Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine. <https://doi.org/10.1089/acm.2020.0506>
- **Gittner, L. S.**, & **Dennis, J. A.** (2021). Diversion for justice involved individuals with mental health issues: A public health perspective. In American Society of Criminology Division on Corrections and Sentencing's Handbook on Pretrial Justice. Eds. Jennifer Copp, Stephen DeMuth, Christine Scott-Hayward.

*Public health faculty, alumni & students in **bold**

Recent Publications Continued

- **Appiah, D** (2021). "Trends in Age at Natural Menopause and Reproductive Life Span Among US Women, 1959-2018" <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2778126>
- Breast cancer is the second highest female mortality rate in Texas for all races and ethnicities, except for Hispanics. Interestingly, Hale County is a rural underserved county in West Texas which experiences a lower rate of cancer. The research team led by **Dr. Hafiz Khan** conducted a study to determine the relationship between sociodemographic variables and breast cancer outcomes in underserved Hale County which contributed to the highest mortality rate in Texas. Read more about their interesting findings at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/10732748211042125>
- Research work by the Department of Public Health (TTUHSC, Lubbock) was spotlighted in Cancer Control, the journal with a high impact factor. The study, led by Dr. Khan with co-authors-Drew Rasmussen, MPH (TTUHSC Department of Public Health), Kemesha Gabbidon, Ph.D., (University of South Florida Department of Psychology), Komaraiah Palle, Ph.D., (TTUHSC Department of Cell Biology & Biochemistry), Aamrin Rafiq (Department of Biology, Lubbock Christian University), Mohammad Faysel, Ph.D., (Medical Informatics Program Chair, State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University), Sharda Singh, Ph.D., and P. Hemachandra Reddy (TTUHSC Department of Internal Medicine), determined the relationship between sociodemographic variables and breast cancer outcomes in underserved Hale County which contributed to the highest mortality rate in Texas. Here are the websites to find the published article: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/10732748211042125> and <https://doi.org/10.1177/10732748211042125>
- Randazzo, M., Priefer, R., & **Pasupathy, R.** (2021). Research Self-efficacy and productivity in Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty. Journal of Communication Disorders
- Schlosser, R. W., Shane, H. C., Allen, A., Benz, A., Cullen, J., Chiesa, L., Miori-Dineen, L., Koul, R., & **Pasupathy, R.** (2020). Coaching a school team to implement the Visual Immersion System™ in a classroom for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A mixed methods proof-of-concept study. Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders. 4, 447-4720. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41252-020-00176-5>

*Public health faculty, alumni & students in **bold**

Faculty presentations (Public health faculty, alumni & students in **bold**)

- *Human Trafficking Community Forum* (panelist). **Julie St. John**, Conroy Kanter, SJ Murray, Stephanie Andrade-Rocha, Marcus Dudley, & Sam Pollinzi. Beyond Trafficking, Abilene Community Foundation, Abilene, TX, May 16, 2021.
- *Human Trafficking: A Public Health Crisis?* (presenter). Rebecca Sametz, **Julie St. John**, DJ Gilliland. The National Rehabilitation Association, Disability Virtual Summit, April 21, 2021. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fD0qfczrS9jy-jwZ_gsy7gZtXaqrIPBg/view
- *Community Health Worker Covid-19 Impact Survey* (presenter). **Julie St. John**. Advancing CHW Engagement in COVID-19 Response Strategies: A Webinar for Local Health Departments to Learn About COVID-19 Strategies Across the U.S. Community-Based Workforce Alliance, January 19, 2021.

Peer Reviewed presentations (Public health faculty, alumni & students in **bold**)

- *Measuring Organizational Performance of Community Health Worker Organizations* (poster). Denise A. Hernandez, **Julie St. John**. Texas Public Health Association Annual Education Conference, "Shine A Light on Public Health," May 17-19, 2021, virtual.
- *Building a Successful Community Health Worker (CHW) Professional Network* (presentation). Ashley Rodriguez, **Debra Flores, Julie St. John**, Denise A. Hernandez, Dolontria Bryant-Williams. Texas Public Health Association Annual Education Conference, "Shine A Light on Public Health," May 17-19, 2021, virtual.
- *Patient Adherence to Physician Advised Lifestyle Behavior Changes Among Adults with Musculoskeletal Conditions from 2017 NHIS data* (poster). Jason Chen, Chwan-Li Shen, **Julie St. John**, and **Jeff A. Dennis**. TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Student Research Week, March 9-12, 2021.
- *Do Demographics and/or Lifestyle Factors Explain the Differences in BMI and Obesity Between US Born and Foreign Born Blacks?* (poster). Tochi Eboh; Leslie Shen, **Julie St. John, Jeff A. Dennis**. TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Student Research Week, March 9-12, 2021.
- *Applying diffusion of innovation to the Texas Mother Friendly Worksite Program: Does early adoption lead to lower rates of infant mortality?* (poster). Jessyca Turner, **Julie St. John, Jeff Dennis**, Chwan Li-Shen. TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Student Research Week, March 9-12, 2021.

Contact Us

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Staff and Student Recognition

- Patrick Lloyd, Associate Director at the Abilene campus, was recognized for 5 years of service at TTUHSC.
- Congratulations to MPH student James Hays who was selected to serve on the ASPPH Founding Leaders Student Focus Group
- Congratulations to MPH graduate Miranda Rice who received the Outstanding Public Health Student award at commencement in May.
- Congratulations to MPH graduate Bella Kalayilparampil for receiving the United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health award at commencement in May.
- View past students' Applied Practice Experiences on the MPH Web site [here](#).

Newsletter Information

To submit pictures or other items for future newsletters,
submit details to:
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